

“Thank you Madam Chair.

I along with many others have consistently and forcefully condemned political violence by anyone of any kind whether it happens here at the United States Capitol or anywhere else across our country. Law and order is critical for us to preserve a peaceful Republic and anyone breaking our laws should be held accountable. This is what we refer to as equal justice for all. Beginning under President Trump the FBI and the DOJ worked hard, tirelessly, to investigate and prosecute those who were involved in criminal behavior and violence here at the Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup>, as well they should have, but I am troubled that reportedly dozens of individuals from the January 6<sup>th</sup> riots have been held without bond in solitary confinement for up to 23 hours a day. Even Senator Elizabeth Warren has said that solitary confinement is a form of punishment that is cruel and psychologically damaging. She went on and said that in relation to those involved in January 6<sup>th</sup> that we are talking about people who haven't been convicted of anything yet. Even the ACLU expressed similar concerns saying that solitary confinement is torture. Director Wray, you have mentioned a couple of times now some 500+ prosecutions from January 6<sup>th</sup>, your work in that regard we all appreciate. I am curious though, how many of those are in solitary confinement?”

Director Wray: Congressman, I thank you for your appreciation for our work. I do not know the number that would be held under those conditions. That is a decision made by the Court in conjecture with the Justice Department prosecutors. I am afraid I do not have that number or estimate for you

Hice: So you have no idea how many are in solitary confinement? This is something that has been pretty well reported I would think you would have some degree of knowledge and information. You are saying you don't know?

Wray: I don't keep up on the terms of confinement or detention...

Hice: Would you consider it standard operating procedure to hold Americans who have yet to stand trial to be held in solitary confinement?

Wray: I am not sure I can say one way or another on that. Certainly, there are situations where that occurs so it would have to depend on the circumstance of the particular case and I do want to be very careful not to be commenting...

Hice: Well there is a great deal of concern with this. Let me move on... I started early by talking about equal justice for all. Last summer our nation was rocked by months of violence all across our country following the death of George Floyd. In fact, from May 26 to June 8 last year Black Lives Matter and ANTIFA riots caused over 2 billion dollars in property damage. It is estimated here at the Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup> it was somewhere in the neighborhood of 1 and a half million. The major city chiefs association said that during the 10 weeks following George Floyd's death there were 574 riots- declared riots- with violence and other criminal activities. That's 57 per week! Americans lost their lives, there was severe injuries including over 2000 law enforcement. And yet the Democratic party to this day has yet to even hold a single hearing on the BLM and ANTIFA riots! Stunning to me. Many of my Democratic colleagues pretend that the chaos never happened. Others promoted actually and encouraged it and frankly the Left along with the allies of the Liberal media pushed a false narrative that these were somehow peaceful protests while we watched burned police stations, besieged court houses, looted businesses, assaulted police officers, and on and on and on. I am concerned, Director Wray, that we are all that somehow is resulting in a less than aggressing investigation, prosecution, and sentencing on the federal level. So I'm curious how many individuals has the FBI investigated and or arrested regarding the riots that we all watched across our country last summer?

Director Wray: I can't give you the exact number but I can tell you that we've had hundreds of investigations and hundreds of arrests and I would be remiss if I didn't say that I share your concerns about the violence and criminality that occurred over the summer. It is extremely serious activity and we've used all the tools in our toolbox to pursue our joint terrorism taskforce, treating it as a force of domestic terrorism as well. And In fact, last year we had more anarchist violence extremist arrests then wed had in the prior three years combined. We at the FBI are taking both forms of domestic terrorism extremely seriously and appreciate you interests.

Hice: Are you aware of any of those individuals being in solitary confinement?

Director Wray: Well again same answer in connection with the January 6<sup>th</sup> arrests...

Hice: Alright Director Wray, thank you, I get the point. I'd love to ask about the Durham report, the Hunter Biden laptop, Hunter's business deals in China, and a host of other things, but my time has expired. I will wrap up, but I would urge this Democratic leadership to hold hearings om the riots that took place across this country last summer. I yield back.